

BLM

FS



# Sustainable Development

and Your  
Mining  
Operations

*Making It  
Work for*

*Company, Community,  
and Society*



# *Sustainable Development*

*meets the  
needs of  
the present  
generation  
without  
compromising  
the ability  
of future  
generations to  
meet their own  
needs.*

*This checklist  
is for your use  
only so there  
is no need to  
send it back  
to us!*

## **Background**

In 2002, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, 193 countries, including the United States, concluded that mining, minerals, and metals were important to the economic and social development of many countries, and that social, environmental, and economic values were essential considerations for mining, minerals, and metals operations.

The Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service support the concept of sustainable development for mining and other extractive industries. We hope you have read about the benefits of integrating the social, environmental, and economic components of sustainable development in your mining operations and have adopted, like many others in your profession and industry, guiding principles for implementing sustainable development.

## **Making Sustainable Development Work for You**

The checklist we have provided will help you track your progress toward achieving social, environmental, and economic considerations of sustainable development in your mining operation. Please take a few moments to assess your particular operation (exploration, extraction, or closure) to determine how well you have integrated the three sustainable development components. Check the boxes that represent your practices. Please note that the considerations provided here are just examples. There are many others that may be applicable.



# Social Considerations

- Engage community leaders and residents in open, honest, and effective collaboration on mining plans
- Respect the cultures and values of individuals and groups whose livelihoods may be affected
- Reduce to acceptable levels the adverse social impacts on communities
- Provide educational outreach for local citizens on minerals and mining
- Hire from the local community
- Seek opportunities to provide infrastructure needs for the community



Photo Courtesy of Newmont Mining

# Environmental Considerations

- Make environmental management a priority at the highest level of the company
- Plan for reclamation of disturbed areas and closure before operations begin
- Minimize noise and dust during operations
- Handle hazardous materials safely
- Clean up pollution and contamination spilled during operations immediately
- Initiate a company inspection program for regulated activities
- Promote health and safety both on and off the mining project site



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# Economic Considerations

- Maximize the positive and minimize the negative community and household economic impacts
- Invest in programs that improve the skills and productivity of the workforce
- Encourage suppliers to use energy efficient materials and technologies
- Look for improvements that help profitability while reducing wastes released into the environment
- Work with local communities to sustain their economies after mine closure



to Courtesy of MTU

# **Congratulations if you checked many of the boxes!**

We hope our checklist has given you a better idea of your progress toward making your operation a more sustainable one—socially, environmentally, and economically. It is an important step for you, your community, and the world as we all seek to satisfy demands for minerals, to ensure the well-being of our ecosystems, and to understand the earth's environmental limits and capacities.



## **Thank You**

for taking time to participate in this exercise and for doing your part in contributing toward a sustained society for our generation and for future generations.

For more information, call 202-208-4201 or 202-452-0351. You can also contact your nearest BLM office. For office locations and information on other BLM or FS programs, visit our websites at

**[www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)**

**[www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)**

Cover Photo: Kids on Queen Mine Tour—our future generation.  
Bizbee, AZ. Photo by Bob Anderson, BLM

November 2005  
BLM/WO/GI-06/004+3000